

CHILDREN'S CHATTER

One year later...

You should be proud of yourselves. You just survived an **entire year** of COVID-19.

I'll be honest — this one-year anniversary is not a date I even want to *think* about, much less celebrate. It brings back so many bad memories and emotions, and reminds me that this virus is still a huge part of our lives.

At the same time, however, this anniversary *is* cause for celebration. Fun fact: The day I found out the library was going to close was also my birthday. On the one hand, it's unfortunate that those two things happened the same day. But on the other hand, it's a good reminder why I *should* celebrate. Yes, it is the day the world turned upside down. But it's also the day, many years ago, I came into this crazy, beautiful world, and I sure am glad I'm still here to see it.

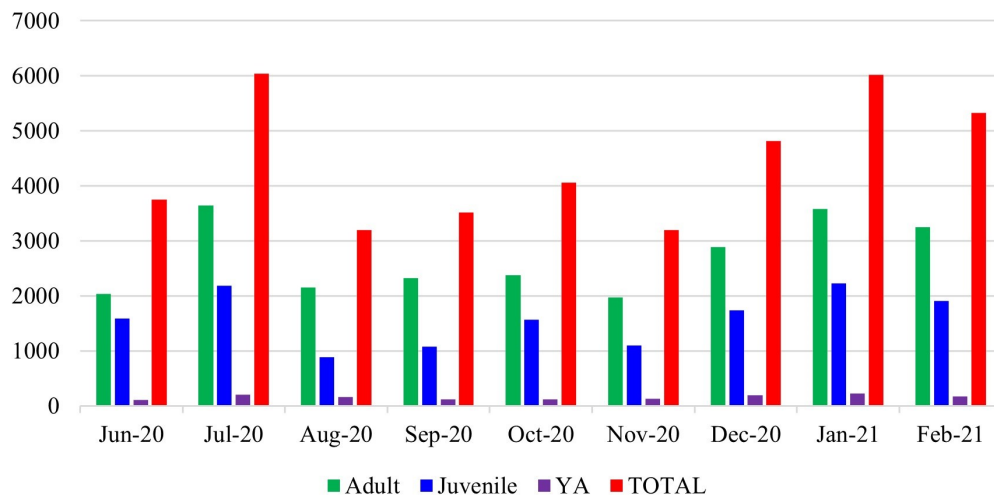
So go grab yourself a slice of cake. Stick a candle on it, if you want. Do it in honor of the people we've lost, and do it for yourself. Because you're still here, doing the best you can. And that is *definitely* worth celebrating.

All my best,
Emily

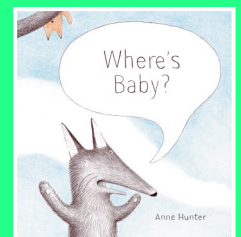
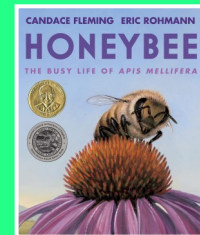
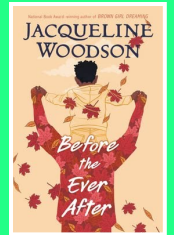
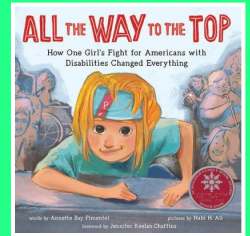
You're adapting!

Guess what? We have almost as many checkouts in January and February as we did in July when the library was **open**! Thank you for being so flexible!

Checkouts @ the Salem Public Library



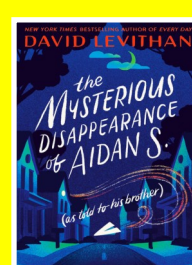
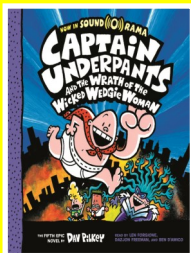
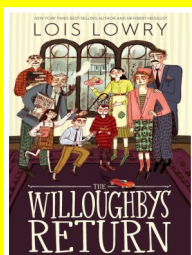
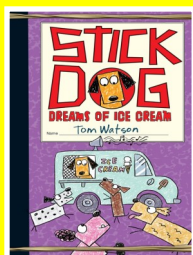
2021 Award-Winning Books



The Seed Library is back!

It's time to start planting! Come by the front foyer and grab your cool weather crops (lettuce, kale, etc.) or summer seeds to start indoors (tomatoes, peppers, etc.). We recommend getting your kids involved, too! Gardening is a great activity for kids of all ages. They love to play in the dirt and watch their little sprouts grow. Request one of our many great kids' gardening books here: <https://tinyurl.com/m9yj7s3k>.

Check out our latest digital editions!



Find more great ebooks at
rvl.overdrive.com

Grabbies Galore & Zillions of Zooms!

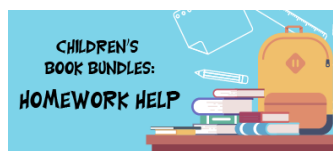
Believe it or not, we gave out **739 Grabbies** between June 2020-February 2021! We have hundreds more lined up, too, so keep your eyes peeled for the latest craft. Thank you for taking the time to create with your kids!

Our Zoom Storytime attendance has been off the charts as well. Between June 2020-March 6, 2021, we hosted **37 Zoom Storytimes** and had **1700 viewers!** WOW. Thank you for your amazing support. We can't wait to see you in-person again (whenever that is). In the meantime, keep tuning in!

Speaking of stats...

...our Book Bundles have *also* been a hit! Between September 2020-March 6, 2021, we put together **254** bundles of 5-10 books each! That comes out to approximately **1,625 hand-selected books**. We've also partnered with The Lab at the Science Museum of Western Virginia, and, since October, have checked out **480 books** to their students.

Want a bundle of your own? The forms are on the homepage of our website (www.salemlibrary.info). You have three options: **Book Bundles**, **Homework Help**, and **Picture Book Bundles** (best for young readers). If you're not sure which one you should fill out, give me a call and I will help you out!



Final thoughts...

"Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world."

~Lauren Ward